

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 RSR-01 /116 W
----- 038059

R 271150 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4784

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, BG, IN, NP, PK

BIHARIS TO FLY FROM NEPAL TO PAKISTAN

REF: NEW DELHI 3370

1. AUTHORITATIVE LOCAL SOURCE CONFIRMS THAT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH BANGLADESH, GOI HAS ACCORDED AD HOC PERMISSION FOR RNAC OVERFLIGHTS INDIA, WITH TRANSIT STOP DELHI, TO TRANSPORT PAKISTANI REFUGEES FROM BANGLADESH WHO HAVE BEEN STRANDED NEPAL. ACCORDING THIS SOURCE, GOI AT FIRST RELUCTANT BUT PERMISSION WAS FORTHCOMING AFTER DIRECT PERSONAL INTERVENTION GOI AMBASSADOR TO NEPAL, L. P. SINGH.

2. WE UNDERSTAND REFUGEES AWAITING TRANSPORT ARE NOT NECESSARILY BIHARIS, BUT PERSONS CERTIFIED BY GOP TO HAVE MET " SELECTIVE CRITERIA"; I. E. (A) THOSE WHO WERE RESIDING TEMPORARILY IN WEST PAKISTAN PRIOR TO PARTITION; (B) CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES; OR (C) MEMBERS OF DIVIDED FAMILIES WHOSE PRINCIPALS

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NOW RESIDE PAKISTAN. NINE HUNDRED FORTY- SIX ARE NOW CERTIFIED UNDER THESE CRITERIA AND AWAIT TRANSPORT, WHILE 3,000 LIKELY TO QUALIFY AWAIT CERTIFICATION IN KATHMANDU VALLEY. THERE ARE ALSO THREE TO FIVE THOUSAND BEHARIS WHOM GOP IS LOATH TO CERTIFY, EVEN THOUGH MAJORITY WERE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES AND WOULD QUALIFY UNDER EXISTING GROUND RULES, I. E., THE " SELECTIVE CRITERIA" (WHICH OUR SOURCE SAYS ARE APPLIED " MOST SELECTIVELY.)"

3. NO FLIGHTS HAVE AS YET PROCEEDED SINCE GOP REPORTEDLY HAS NOT YET SOLVED FUNDING PROBLEMS AND COULD PRESENTLY SUPPORT ONLY A FEW FLIGHTS. WE HAVE HEARD THAT UNHCR REP KOHOUT HAS RECOMMENDED UNHCR QUIETLY GRANT GOP SOFT LOAN FOR PURPOSE, BUT HAS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED AGAINST DIRECT UNHCR INVOLVEMENT. ONE OF HIS CONCERNS IS REPORTEDLY THAT IF AVAILABILITY EASY BANGLADESH- NEPAL- PAKISTAN ROUTE BECOMES KNOWN, REFUGEES WILL BEGIN POURING INTO NEPAL (WHICH LACKS EFFECTIVE BORDER CONTROL) IN NUMBERS GREATER THAN PRESENT CAPABILITIES FOR TEMPORARY ABSORPTION. LAST MONTH ALONE, APPARENTLY, OVER 1,000 NEW ARRIVALS REGISTERED AT GOP EMBASSY, AND THERE ARE NO ESTIMATES OF THOSE WHO HAVE GONE UNREGISTERED. WHILE SOME OF THESE NEW REFUGEES ARE ISMAILIS WITH ADEQUATE FUNDS, THEY MUST STILL MEET GOP CRITERIA AND OBTAIN CERTIFICATION BEFORE THEY CAN MOVE.
COON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KATHMA01270
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730339/aaaaiju.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 NEW DELHI 3370
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <07-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971230
Subject: BIHARIS TO FLY FORM NEPAL TO PAKISTAN
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, BG, IN, NP, PK
To: NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BOMBAY
CALCUTTA
Dacca
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

